

COUNCIL OF STATE BAR SECTIONS

Thursday, September 25, 2008

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ferrantes Bay View Room, Monterey Marriott

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Officer Report
 - A. Task Force on Sections
 - B. New Section Members
3. The role of the Council of State Bar Sections
 - A. Importance of regular attendance at Council meetings by representatives of all Sections
 - B. Expectation that each Section representative will serve as an effective and reliable liaison between his/her Section and the Council
4. Affinity Circles - State Bar e-circles
5. "Find a Lawyer" - Update
6. Education
 - A. 2008 State Bar Annual Meeting Update
 - B. SEI and California Solo & Small Firm Summit - Planning for January 2009
 - C. Education Chairs Meeting - December 9, 2008 (SF State Bar Office)
7. Section Appointments – Deadlines for 2009
8. The State Bar of California's Response to the Mortgage Foreclosure Crisis - FYI - (see attached memo)
9. Council Officers
 - A. Confirmation of 2008 - 2009 Co-Chairs
 - B. Election of 2008-2009 Co-Vice Chairs
10. Confirmation of 2008-2009 Section Task Force Representatives
 - 2008 - 2009 Co-Chairs (2 year term)
 - 2008 - 2009 Immediate Past Co-Chairs (1 year term)
11. 2009 Council Meeting Schedule - Mark your calendars
 - **Thursday, January 15, 2009** Claremont Resort, Berkeley (SEI)
 - **Wednesday, April 8, 2009** (possible conference call)
 - **Friday, August 7, 2009** (New ExCom Member Orientation & Council Meeting - SF State Bar Office)
 - **Thursday, September 10, 2009** San Diego (Annual Meeting)

NOTE: The State Bar President, Incoming President and Executive Director will attend a portion the Council meeting and give brief remarks.

To: State Bar Sections

RE: The State Bar of California's Response to the Mortgage Foreclosure Crisis

Date: September 10, 2008

We are providing this update to inform your Section members about the State Bar's Mortgage Foreclosure Project and to recruit members to volunteer to provide counseling and support to homeowners and renters who are victims of the ongoing foreclosure crisis.

In response to the mortgage foreclosure crisis in California, the State Bar of California, Office of Legal Services, Access & Fairness Programs has been mobilizing efforts with various organizations to establish a central repository for public resources and attorney volunteer opportunities. With the support of a grant from the California Bar Foundation, the Public Interest Clearinghouse is in the process of finalizing their foreclosure resource website for members of the public and for attorneys with assistance from State Bar staff. The new website is

ForeclosureInfoCA.org.

This site will list all agencies and organizations providing mortgage foreclosure assistance to consumers. The site will also link with www.probono.net/ca and will list the attorney volunteer opportunities in the listed legal services programs, HUD counseling agencies, local bars and LRS's, and Housing Counseling Centers interested in using volunteer attorneys to address mortgage foreclosure issues on behalf of home owners and renters. We expect the official release of this website to be no later than the end of September 2008.

The website will offer resources for home owners facing issues along the full spectrum of foreclosure-related matters, including those individuals who are first time buyers, who are precariously close to going into foreclosure or who are facing foreclosure. The site will also provide information and resources for renters who are facing evictions from foreclosed properties.

We recognize that attorneys are in a unique position with their knowledge and skills to offer very specific volunteer services. To determine where attorneys can be most helpful, the Bar has been working with HUD counseling centers and contacts through the California Reinvestment Coalition, NeighborWorks America, and Housing and Economic Rights Advocates to identify those agencies in the hardest hit counties ready to accept volunteer attorneys to help with discrete tasks such as loan renegotiations on behalf of borrowers, contract review and identification of predatory lending, etc.

The State Bar is fortunate to be working very closely with Practicing Law Institute (PLI), an approved MCLE provider, which is developing training modules to educate attorneys on California law and loan modifications, recourse for renters who are facing eviction from a property in foreclosure, and other issues pertaining to this crisis. PLI is developing the programming with the assistance of Tara Twomey, Of Counsel at National Consumer Law Center and Maeve Elise Brown, Executive Director, Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA).

The live training sessions will be free of charge and open to all volunteer attorneys, legal services advocates and HUD Counselors. Simultaneous webcasts will also be set up. All training modules will be available continuously on-line and free of charge to anyone interested in volunteering. We anticipate that the training will occur in early November 2008. Once the training dates have been confirmed, we will provide each of the Sections with the information and will also post the dates on the State Bar website and on the volunteer attorney site.

If you are interested in viewing the training outline, please let us know by sending an email to bar.relations@calbar.ca.gov and we will coordinate with you.

Questions regarding remote sites for simultaneous webcasts can be coordinated through Rodney Low at Rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov or 415-538-2219.

Members of the public will be notified of the web resource through an informational postcard, which will be distributed throughout the state, announcements on LawHelpCalifornia, the State Bar's web site, and hopefully, through the various channels provided through your organizations.

As you can see, the State Bar is partnering with many other agencies and organizations to help in this time of crisis.

If you have any suggestions on the type of training needed, channels for distributing information to both the public and the attorneys or wish to discuss any aspect of this project, please contact:

Patricia Lee, Director, Office of Legal Services Access & Fairness Programs
Patricia.lee@calbar.ca.gov or 415-538-2240

or

Carol Madeja, Director, Bar Relations Outreach
Carol.madeja@calbar.ca.gov or 213-765-1329

Thank you and we will be in back in touch shortly.